Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 /026 W

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R 022359Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4020 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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PASS USDA/FAS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: SOYBEAN PURCHASES

REF FASTO 28

1. CONASUPO CONFIRMED TODAY THAT 150,000 TONS OF SOYBEANS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM BRAZIL FOR JUNE-OCTOBER DELIVERY. THEY DENIED ANY TIE IN WITH PETROLEUM BUT DID SAY THAT THEY HOPED BRAZIL WILL TAKE SOME DRY BEANS. OTHER REASONS GIVEN FOR BRAZILIAN PURCHASE WERE GUARANTEE OF 19 PERCENT OIL CONTENT VERSUS NORMAL YIELD OF 17 PERCENT FORUS BEANS AND THEIR PERFERENCE FOR GOERNMENT TOGOVERNMENT DEALS. ACTUALLY, A COOPERATIVE MADE THE SALE BUT MINAG COSIGNED FOR GOB. THEY ALSO STATED THEY WANTED TO TRY SOME BRAZILIAN BEANS TO SEE HOW THEY COMPARE WITH US. SALES PRICE WILL BE BASIS CHICAGO WITH "SLIGHT" PREMIUM. TRADE SOURCES INDICATE THAT CURRENT DELIVERY PRICE WOULD BE AROUND \$200 PER TON AT GULF PORTS.

2. BASED ON CURRENT CROP PROSPECTS FOR 1976 (DOWN 50 PERCENT FROM LAST SEASON DUE TO LOW RESERVOIR SUPPLIES) CONASUPO ANTICIPATES TOTAL SOYBEAN PURCHASES FROM JUNE THROUGH MAY 1977 AT 500,000 TONS. THEY MAY BUY ANOTHER 100,000 TONS FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER DELIVERY BEFORE THE NEW CROP COMES IN BUT WOULD PROBABLY LEAVE THE REMAINDER FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH TAKES OFFICE DEC. 1. WHETHER THEY BUY REMAINDER FROM US

OR BRAZIL LIKELY TO DEPEND UPON EXPERIENCE WITH SHIPMENTS FROM BRAZIL AND COMPARATIVE PRICES. CCC CREDIT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN TIEING FURTHER PURCHASES TO US ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT PURSUE THIS QUESTION AT MEETING WITH AGATT TODAY.

3. FURTHER CORN PURCHASES THIS MARKETING YEAR PROJECTED AT 500,000 TONS. SIZEABLE QUANTITIES HAVE BEEN BOUGHT FROM AFRICA DURING PAST SIX MONTHS, BUT RECENT TENDERS HAVE BEEN ALL FROM US AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SUPPLIES FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND KENYA MAY BE DRYING UP. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SALES, PETROLEUM, SOYBEANS, BARTER TRADE, PRICES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 02 APR 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO04323

Document Number: 1976MEXICO04323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760126-0330

From: MEXICO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604104/aaaadlig.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AGR Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: buchant0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 JUL 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by buchant0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOYBEAN PURCHASES TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MX, BR To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006